Step 29
Our Relationship
GOOD MORNING, KAZUMA
GOOD—
ガラガラ
MORNING.
....
ARGH!
WE'RE COOKING TODAY IN HOME EC BUT I FORGOT MY COOKING BANDANA
I HAVE TWO, WANT ME TO LEND YOU ONE?
REALLY? THANKS, YUUTA
you really saved me there

"GOOD MORNING".
"GOOD BYE".
THAT'S ALL I PRACTICALLY SAY TO KAZUMA NOW.
HEY TAKAOKA, CAN YOU HELP ME OUT WITH THIS CLASSICAL LIT ASSIGNMENT?
SURE.
MORNING, YUUTA.
MORNING, HIKARU.

AHH...
WHAT'S WRONG?
Didn't get enough sleep last night?
MMMN...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HM?
保健室

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ザワ
WHOA, THAT'S AMAZING!
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS, KIMURA-KUN.
You've got such good technique!
R-REALLY?
YEAH!
OHH, TAKAOKA'S A BEAST TOO!
I MEAN, I'VE BEEN DOING IT AT HOME INSTEAD OF MY MOM SOMTIMES.
I'M JUST COOKING NORMALLY.

I JUST COOK FROM TIME TO TIME TOO.
WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO!?
YOU GUYS HAVE THE LOOKS, THE BRAINS, AND YOU CAN EVEN COOK! AREN'T YOU A BIT TOO GOOD AT EVERYTHING?
HEY! GET BACK TO WORK OVER THERE!
HAHA.
HIKARU, HOW'RE YOU DOING?
....
HIKARU?
HUH?
OH!
KIKUCHI-KUN YOU CUT THEM TOO FINELY.
THEY'RE PRACTICALLY A PASTE NOW.
WHA— SORRY!
I'LL BE MORE CAREFU—

OOPS.
ガラー!
THERE YOU GO.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. AND THANKS ..
IT'S NO PROBLEM. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OK, HIKARU?

YEAH
I JUST SPACED OUT A LITTLE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY DOWN ALL DAY.
チャラ
チャラ
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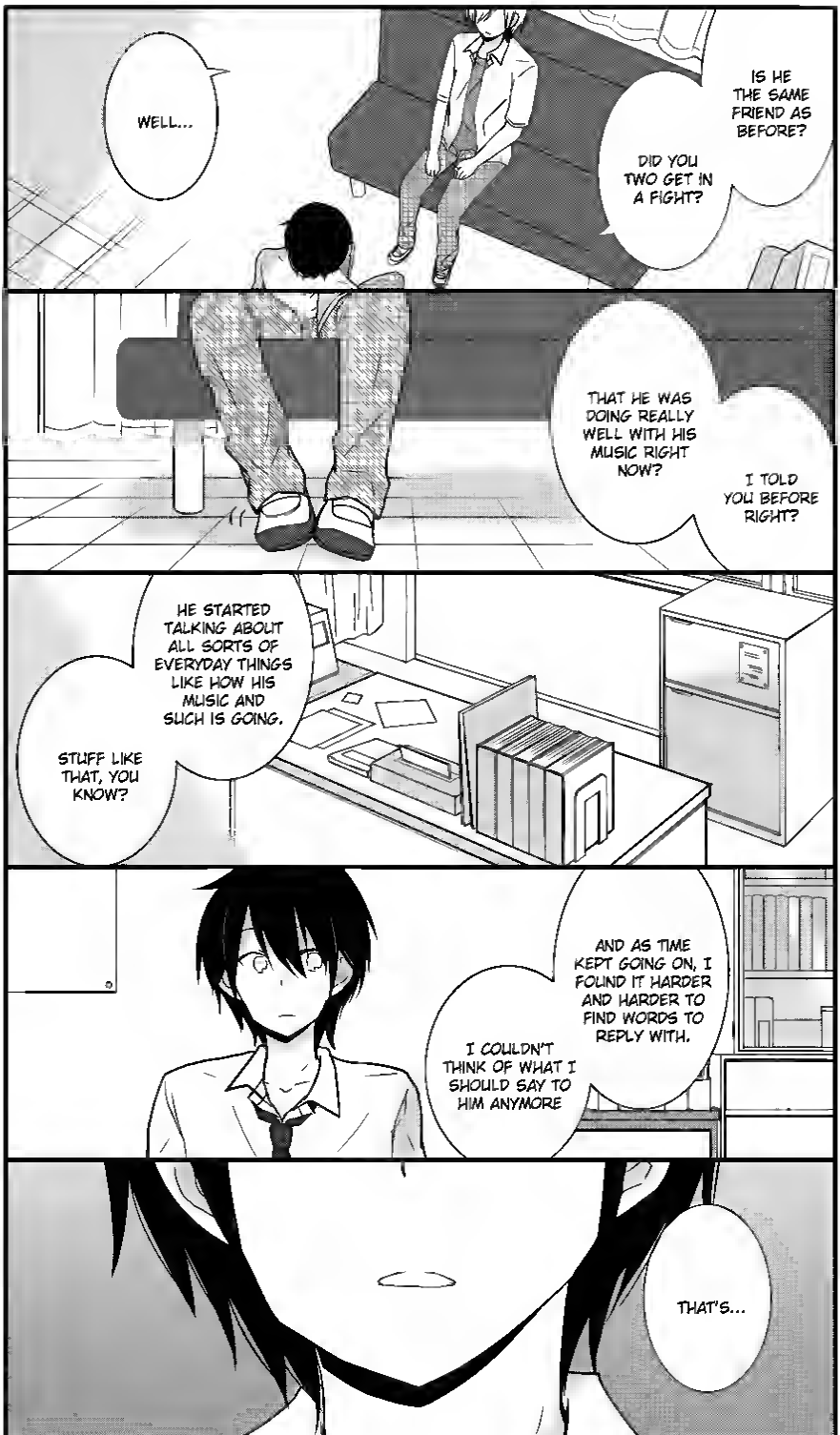
パカッ
CRAP, I FORGOT TO TURN MY CELL PHONE OFF.
sorry about that

チャラ
チャラララ
12:20
[Incoming Call]
Matsun
IS IT ALRIGHT NOT TO PICK IT UP?
YEAH... HE'S PROBABLY JUST INVITING ME TO ANOTHER ONE OF HIS CONCERTS
BESIDES,
I HAVEN'T BEEN REPLYING TO HIS TEXTS EITHER,
SO IT'D BE AWKWARD TO TALK TO HIM NOW.


WELL...
IS HE THE SAME FRIEND AS BEFORE?
DID YOU TWO GET IN A FIGHT?
THAT HE WAS DOING REALLY WELL WITH HIS MUSIC RIGHT NOW?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE RIGHT?
HE STARTED TALKING ABOUT ALL SORTS OF EVERYDAY THINGS LIKE HOW HIS MUSIC AND SUCH IS GOING.
STUFF LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW?
AND AS TIME KEPT GOING ON, I FOUND IT HARDER AND HARDER TO FIND WORDS TO REPLY WITH.
I COULDN'T THINK OF WHAT I SHOULD SAY TO HIM ANYMORE
THAT'S...

U
WH—
WHY IS THAT, YOU THINK?
WHY?
PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M JEALOUS
JEALOUS OF HIM.

I MUST BE A TERRIBLE PERSON FOR THINKING LIKE THIS.
HAA
"JEALOUS"
SO EVEN YOU GET LIKE THIS SOMETIMES, HIKARU...
WELL OF COURSE.
BUT STILL, I WANT TO SUPPORT HIM THE BEST I CAN
We're friends after all

I SEE.
OUR RELATIONSHIPS ARE A BIT DIFFERENT
KAZUMA AND I.
HIKARU AND HIS FRIEND.
BUT THAT GIRL WHO'S FACE I DON'T EVEN KNOW,
WHO I ONLY SAW FROM BEHIND...
I WAS JUST

JEALOUS OF HER.
WHEN YOU PUT IT IN WORDS LIKE THAT
IT SEEMS SO SIMPLE
....
SORRY FOR SAYING SUCH WEIRD THINGS YUUTA
HUH? OH!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I JUST—

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW.
ガラッ
YOU HERE, HIKARU?
IS THE CUT DEEP?
NOPE, IT'S PRACTICALLY A SCRATCH.
YOU SURE? CAN YOU PLAY THE GUITAR LIKE THAT?
OH YEAH, IF YOU HURT YOUR FINGER YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY YOUR GUITAR. .
DON'T WORRY, IT'LL HEAL RIGHT AWAY.

YOU ALWAYS TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF YOUR FINGERS.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO ACCIDENTALLY CUT THEM LIKE THAT.
キク
WOW, YOU'RE SHARP!
YEAH. SOME STUFF CAME UP, THAT'S ALL.
ポスッ
HERE.
THE GIRLS IN OUR CLASS TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
They're the cupcakes we made for dessert
F-FOR ME!?
I TOLD THEM YOU LIKE SWEET THINGS.
REALLY!? THANKS THIS MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY!
I'll treasure it when I eat it ♪
UMM.. COULD THAT ONE BE...
IT'S AN EXTRA I ASKED THEM TO MAKE.

KEEP IT A SECRET FROM HIKARU.
:3,0
MAYBE THIS MEANS I STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
COME ON DON'T SAY THAT! WAIT, COULD IT BE YOU WANT SOME OF THESE TOO? I WON'T LET YOU HAVE THEM!
AHAHA, DON'T WORRY I WON'T TAKE THEM.
No way I would.

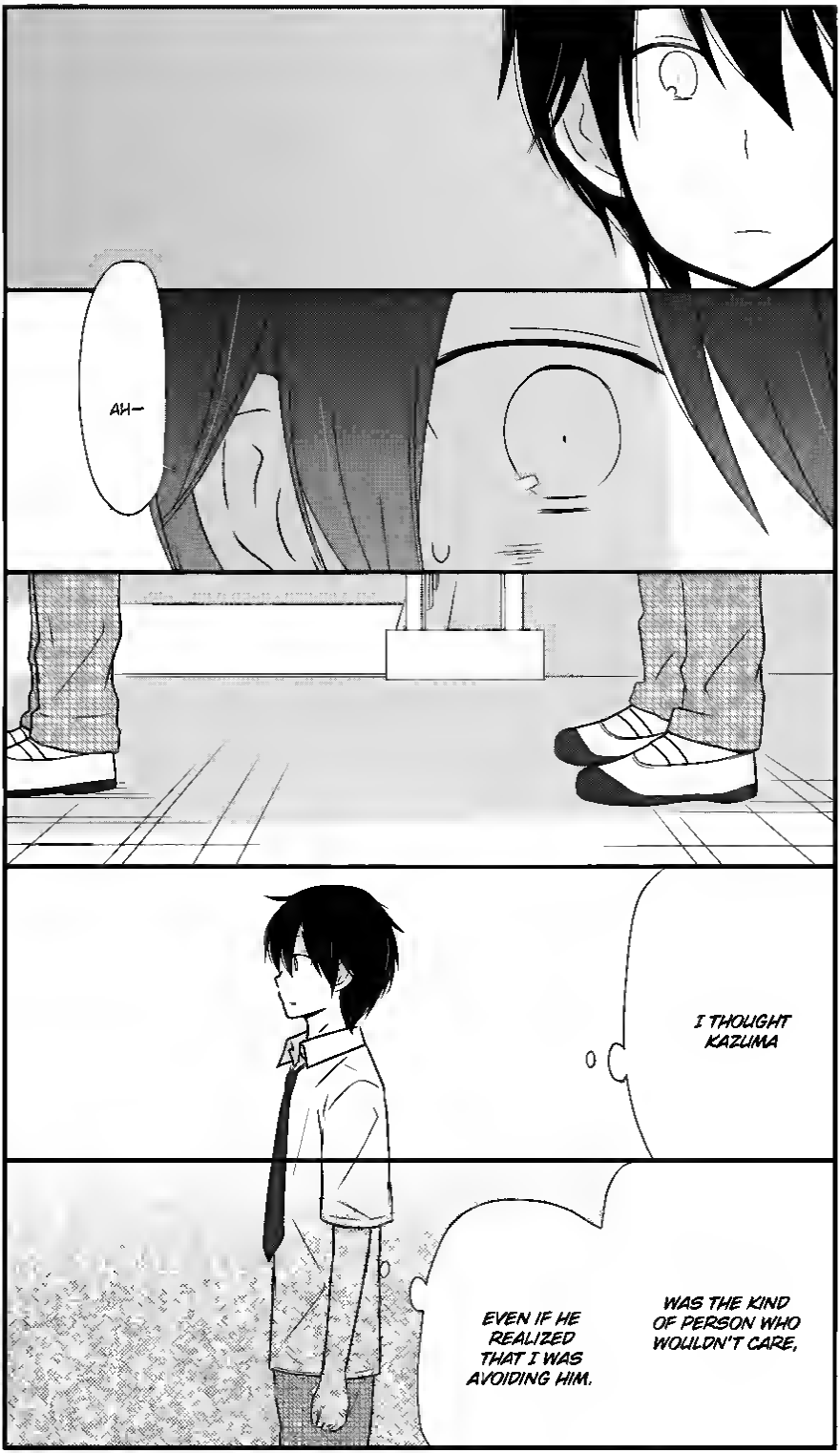
Good for you
Hehe!
I NEED TO GO RETURN THE KEY TO THE STAFF ROOM SO YOU TWO GO ON AHEAD OF ME.
ALRIGHT.

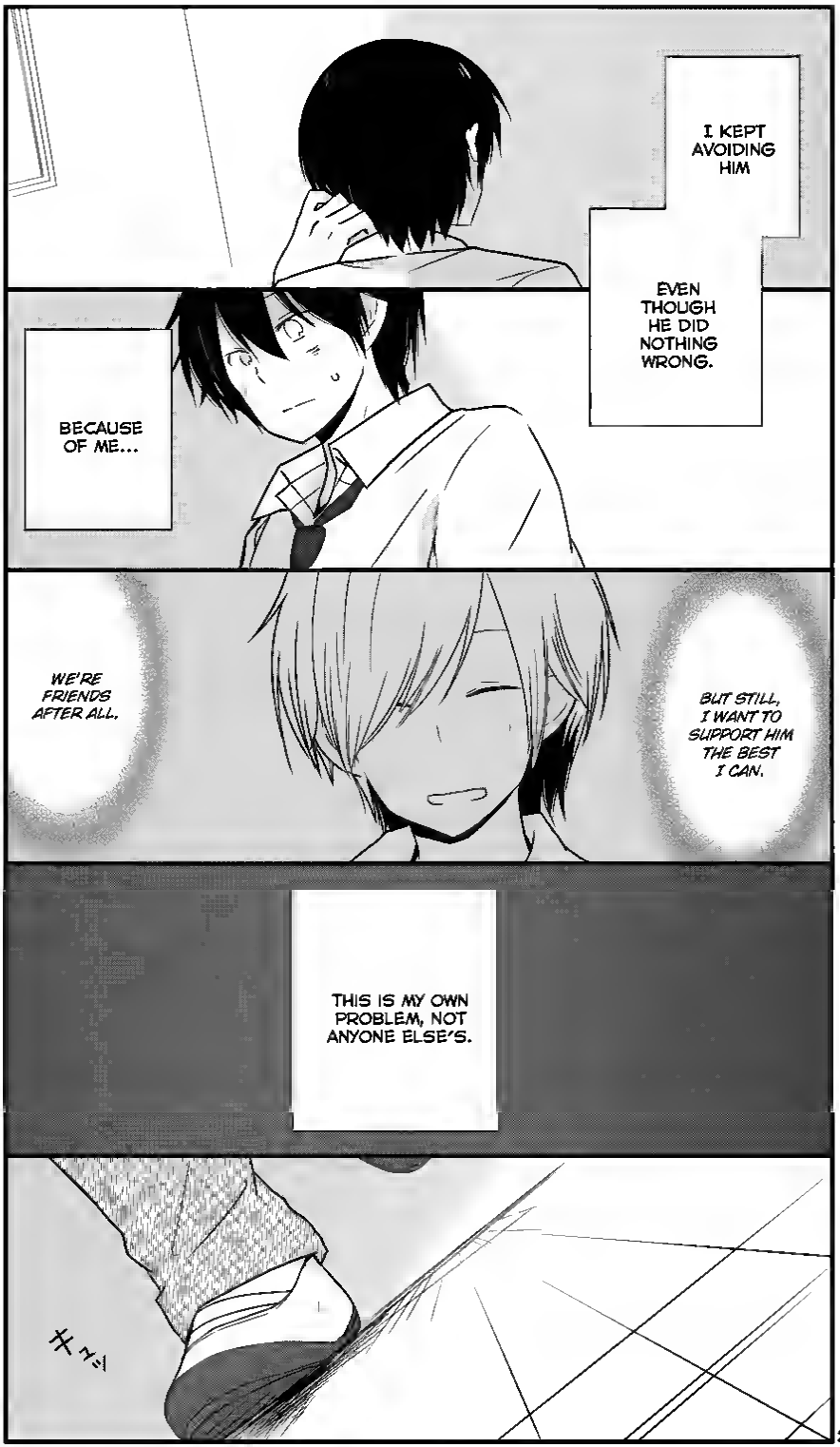
....
OH NO—
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE BEEN ALONE TOGETHER
THANKS TO THAT IT SEEMS LIKE HIKARU FINALLY GOT HIS ENERGY BACK.
Y-YEAH
HE LOOKED REALLY HAPPY.
THAT'S GOOD THEN
BUT,
I DIDN'T FIGURE YOU'D BE THE KIND OF PERSON TO PULL SOMETHING LIKE THAT, KAZUMA
To think you'd ask the girls for an extra
COME TO THINK OF IT,
IT'S KIND OF IMPRESSIVE HE KNEW HIKARU WAS FEELING DOWN WITHOUT EVEN HAVING TO TALK TO HIM.
....

HUH?
YOU WERE LAUGHING IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
YOU TOO, YUI.
I FEEL LIKE IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN YOUR SMILING FACE.
I'M KIND OF RELIEVED.

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
THIS IS JUST SPECULATION,
BUT I GOT THE FEELING THAT YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME RECENTLY.
T-THAT'S NOT TRUE!
SO EVEN YOU THOUGHT THAT, KAZUMA...
THE THING IS—
WELL..

EVEN I'D START TO FEEL BAD IF IT WAS TRUE.

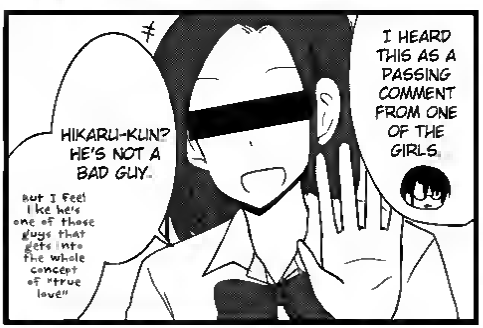

AH—
I THOUGHT KAZUMA
WAS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULDN'T CARE,
EVEN IF HE REALIZED THAT I WAS AVOIDING HIM.


I KEPT AVOIDING HIM
EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOTHING WRONG.
BECAUSE OF ME...
WE'RE FRIENDS AFTER ALL.
BUT STILL, I WANT TO SUPPORT HIM THE BEST I CAN.
THIS IS MY OWN PROBLEM, NOT ANYONE ELSE'S.

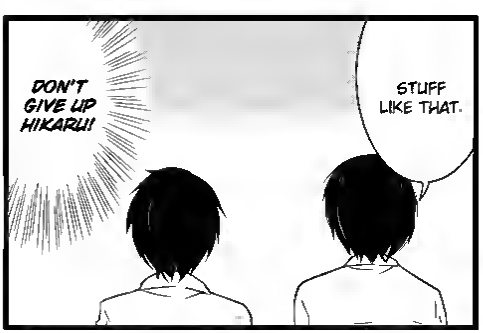
I'M SORRY, KAZUMA.
I THOUGHT OF THIS BACK WHEN THE THREE OF US WERE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE TOO.
I LIKE IT BEST
WHEN WE'RE ALL SMILING TOGETHER.

MY CHEST STILL HURTS,
BUT I HAVE TO KEEP MY EMOTIONS FROM GETTING THE BETTER OF ME.
I DON'T WANT TO RUIN THIS RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE.
I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN.

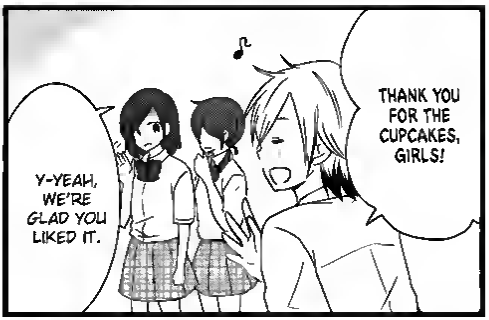
Reasons for unpopularity

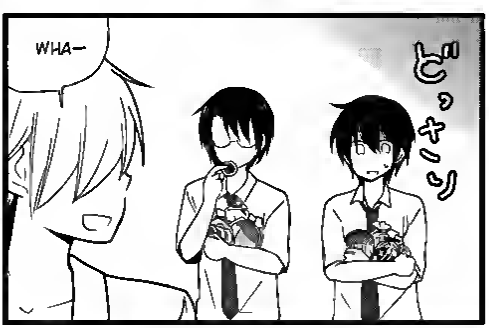

I HEARD THIS AS A PASSING COMMENT FROM ONE OF THE GIRLS.
HIKARU-KUN? HE'S NOT A BAD GUY.
but I feel like he's one of those guys that gets into the whole concept of "true love"

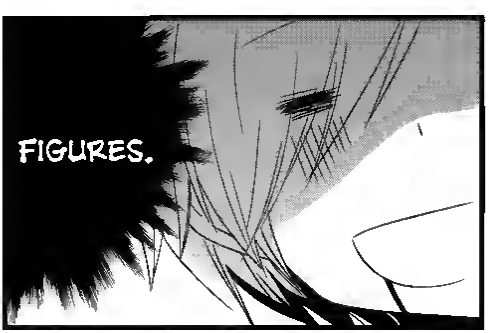
I FEEL LIKE IF I DO SOMETHING NICE FOR HIM HE'LL JUST MISUNDERSTAND SO I DON'T GET CLOSE TO HIM.
He sings love songs every day too



Expectations of popularity







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